

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/775,137  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

**PATENT  
NON-FINAL**

**REMARKS**

Claims 13-15, 22 and 23 are rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The rejection as it applies to claims 22 and 23 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Regarding the rejection as it applies to claims 13-15, claim 13 has been cancelled since there is no antecedent basis for the recitation of monomer mixture (c). (Claims 16 and 19 have also been canceled for the same reason). The recitation "containing substantially no unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer (except the unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2)) (a5)" has been deleted from claims 14 and 15. In claim 14, this recitation has been replaced by the recitation --has an acid value of less than 0.01 mgKOH--. Support for this latter recitation is found in the specification on page 16, lines 6-16.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Quinn et al. (GB 2106120) (hereinafter: "Quinn").

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Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7 relating to the distribution of the weight ratios ( $\phi_{ST}/\phi_{MMA}$ ) of the aromatic vinyl monomer (a1) and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester monomer (a2) which constitute the acetone soluble resin component. Claim 7 has been canceled. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to recite that 10 to 95 parts by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition, is a copolymer (A) produced by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization of a vinyl monomer mixture (a) containing 5 to 70% by weight of aromatic vinyl monomer (a1), 30 to 95% by weight of unsaturated carboxylic acid alkyl ester monomer (a2), 0 to 50% by weight of vinyl cyanide monomer (a3), and 0 to 50% by weight of another monomer copolymerizable with these monomers, and having an acid value of less than 0.01 mgKOH. This recitation is supported in the specification, inter alia, on page 10, lines 5-19, and page 23, lines 6-12.

The claims as amended are patentably distinct under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Quinn. Quinn discloses polymerization carried out by a two-stage system. Quinn does not disclose a composition containing a copolymer (A) produced by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution

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polymerization. The rubber-reinforced styrene transparent resin composition of the present invention produced by continuous bulk polymerization or continuous solution polymerization has a narrow distribution of weight ratios ( $\phi_{ST}/\phi_{MA}$ ) of the aromatic vinyl monomer (a1) and the unsaturated carboxylic acid ester monomer (a2), excellent transparency and excellent color tone.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and, alternative, 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections over Quinn is in order and is respectfully solicited.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated January 26, 2005, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

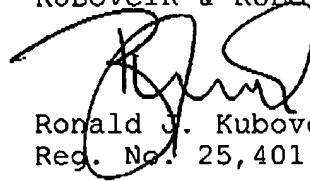
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In the event any additional fees are required, please also  
charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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